

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BERLIN 01450 01 OF 02 231637Z

51

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SAJ-01 MBFR-03 ACDA-19 IO-13 CIAE-00

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PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15 RSR-01 /128 W

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R 231539Z AUG 73

FM USMISSION BERLIN

TO AMEMBASSY BONN

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 2283

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 BERLIN 1450

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, WB, GE

SUBJECT: BRITISH PLANS FOR TRAVEL OF MISSION PERSONNEL IN GDR

1. SUMMARY: IN ELABORATION OF POSITION APPARENTLY SET FORTH RECENTLY BY UK EMBASSY REP IN BONN, BRITISH POLAD (WALKER) INFORMED US POLAD AUGUST 17 THAT BRITISH BERLIN MISSION INTENDS TO EXERCISE POSSIBILITY OF TRAVEL IN GDR AND THAT ONLY REAL CONSTRAINT ON SUCH TRAVEL WILL BE RESTRICTIONS IMPOSED BY REQUIREMENTS OF SECURITY. WALKER INDICATED BRITISH DESIRE TO COORDINATE CLOSELY WITH US ON SUBJECT OF MISSION TRAVEL IN GDR AND TO MINIMIZE DIFFERENCES IN THEORY WITH FRENCH, BUT HE MADE IT CLEAR THAT HIS GOVERNMENT DID NOT INTEND TO PERMIT ABSENCE OF FORMAL TRIPARTITE AGREEMENT ON THIS SUBJECT TO LIMIT EXERCISE OF PRACTICES IT CONSIDERED LEGITIMATE. LEGAL CONCEPT WITH WHICH BRITISH ARE APPROACHING QUESTION APPEARS TO PARALLEL CLOSELY THAT SET FORTH IN TRAVEL PAPER DRAFTED BY MISSIONS AND POUCHED TO DEPARTMENT IN APRIL, WHICH ALSO REFLECTS OUR VIEWS. END SUMMARY.

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PAGE 02 BERLIN 01450 01 OF 02 231637Z

2. IN CALL ON US POLAD AUGUST 17, BRITISH POLAD (WALKER)

CONFIRMED THAT HMG HAS APPROVED IN PRINCIPLE TRAVEL OF MEMBERS OF BRITISH MISSION IN GDR SUBJECT TO FOLLOWING RESTRICTIONS: A) IT IS TO BE IN GROUPS; B) IT IS TO BE TO TOURIST CENTERS; C) RETURN IS TO BE MADE TO WEST BERLIN IN SAME DAY. HE INDICATED LIMITATIONS WERE DICTATED BY SECURITY CONSIDERATIONS. ASIDE FROM QUESTION OF SECURITY, BRITISH MISSION CONSIDERS THAT ITS PERSONNEL CAN, SUBSEQUENT TO RECOGNITION OF GDR, TRAVEL ANYWHERE IN GDR IN PRIVATE CAPACITY (BUT NOT, OF COURSE, ON HELMSTEDT AUTOBAHN IN TRANSIT BETWEEN WEST BERLIN AND FRG) WITHOUT PREJUDICING ALLIED RIGHT THAT SUCH PERSONNEL MAY BE PROCESSED ONLY BY SOVIETS WHEN THEY TRAVEL HELMSTEDT AUTOBAHN IN TRANSIT OR WHEN THEY ARE IN EAST BERLIN. IN ORDER TO FACILITATE TRAVEL OF MISSION PERSONNEL AND TO AVOID PRESENTING TO SOVIETS TRAVEL DOCUMENTS THAT REVEAL INDIVIDUAL HAS PREVIOUSLY ACCEPTED GDR CONTROLS, BRITISH WOULD TRAVEL ON PASSPORTS WHEN SUBMITTING TO GDR CONTROLS AND ON ID CARDS WHEN TRANSITING AUTOBAHN OR TRAVELLING IN EAST BERLIN. THEY ALSO PLAN TO REMOVE COMMANDANT'S STAMP FROM PASSPORTS THAT MISSION PERSONNEL WOULD USE WITH GDR OFFICIALS, AND OF COURSE THEY WOULD NOT PROPOSE TO ENTER GDR THROUGH EAST BERLIN OR RETURN TO WEST BERLIN FROM GDR VIA EAST BERLIN.

3. WALKER'S PRESENTATION TO US FOLLOWED STATEMENT APPARENTLY MADE BY BRITISH REP IN BONN GROUP WEEK BEFORE. BRITISH MINISTER (BUSHELL) TOLD US MINISTER AUGUST 21 THAT BRITISH DECIDED TO MAKE STATEMENT OUTLINING THEIR PLANS FOR TRAVEL IN GDR BECAUSE THEY WANTED TO PUT FRENCH "ON NOTICE" THAT UK WAS NOT PREPARED TO BE BOUND BY FRENCH DISINCLINATION TO PERMIT THEIR OWN MISSION PERSONNEL TO PERFORM SUCH TRAVEL. BUSHELL STRESSED THAT HMG WANTED TO EXERCISE GDR TRAVEL OPTION SO LONG AS PRACTICES DID NOT HAVE ADVERSE EFFECT ON BERLIN ACCESS PRACTICE. BRITISH ACCORDINGLY SAW REQUIREMENTS OF SECURITY AS PRINCIPAL CONSTRAINING FACTOR.

4. WALKER INDICATED TO US POLAD THAT BRITISH ARE UN-
LIKELY TO MAKE FIRST TRIP INTO GDR FOR SOME MONTHS
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 BERLIN 01450 01 OF 02 231637Z

SINCE PRECISE GROUND RULES ARE STILL BEING WORKED OUT WITH FOREIGN OFFICE. INITIAL TRIPS WOULD PROBABLY INVOLVE TRAVEL BY TOURIST BUS TO POTSDAM AND, IF NO TROUBLE ENCOUNTERED, MIGHT BE EXPANDED TO DAY TRIPS TO OTHER TOURIST ATTRACTIONS BY GROUPS OF APPROXIMATELY FOUR INDIVIDUALS IN TWO CARS. BRITISH HAVE NOT YET DECIDED WHETHER TO HAVE THEIR EMBASSY IN EAST BERLIN INFORM GDR OF MISSION TRAVEL PLANS BEFORE FIRST TRIP

IS MADE. (THERE WOULD BE NO NECESSITY TO DO SO IF
GDR VISAS WERE OBTAINED THROUGH POTSDAM TOUR ARRANGER.)

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PAGE 01 BERLIN 01450 02 OF 02 231642Z

51

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 BERLIN 1450

5. WALKER SAID BRITISH CONSIDER TRIPARTITE TRAVEL-
PAPER EXERCISE UNDERTAKEN LAST SPRING IS NOW MORIBUND
BECAUSE FRENCH HAVE INDICATED THEY PREFER TO SEE ALLIED
MISSION PERSONNEL REFRAIN EVEN FROM LIMITED TRAVEL IN
GDR (SUCH AS TO LEIPZIG FAIR) WHICH THEY UNDERTOOK
PRIOR TO RECOGNITION, LEST GDR DEVELOP THEORY THAT
THEIR ABILITY TO CONTROL SUCH PERSONS WHILE THEY
TRAVELLED IN PRIVATE CAPACITY GAVE GDR CONCURRENT
RIGHT WITH SOVIETS TO CONTROL THEM WHILE TRANSITING
HELMSTEDT AUTOBAHN AND IN EAST BERLIN. HE SAID
BRITISH HOPE, HOWEVER, TO DEVELOP GUIDELINES FOR THEIR
TRAVEL THAT WILL TO GREATEST EXTENT POSSIBLE MINIMIZE
FRENCH CONCERNS AND THAT WILL ACCORD WITH US VIEWS.
HE NOTED THAT TRAVEL BRITISH NOW ENVISAGE IS CON-
SIDERABLY MORE RESTRICTED THAN THAT WHICH WOULD BE
POSSIBLE UNDER GENERAL GUIDELINES OF OLD TRAVEL PAPER
BUT THAT IF EXPERIENCE DEMONSTRATES THAT MAJOR SECURITY
PROBLEMS DO NOT ARISE, THEY MIGHT EXPAND THEIR TRAVEL.
IN RESPONSE TO QUERY FROM US POLAD, WALKER SAID HE
THOUGHT IT WAS POSSIBLE THAT BRITISH WOULD BE PREPARED

TO AGREE WITH US ON FULL RANGE OF PRINCIPLES AND
RECOMMENDATIONS SET FORTH IN TRAVEL PAPER, SUBJECT
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PAGE 02 BERLIN 01450 02 OF 02 231642Z

TO UNDERSTANDING THAT FOR TIME BEING BRITISH WOULD
EXERCISE POSSIBILITIES ONLY IN LIMITED WAY (ON BASIS
OF "SELF-DENIAL") BECAUSE OF SECURITY CONCERNS.
WALKER ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT BRITISH ARE HAVING SECOND
THOUGHTS ABOUT DESIRABILITY ANY MISSION TRAVEL TO FRG
EXCEPT UNDER FLAG ORDERS VIA HELMSTEDT AUTOBAHN.

6. COMMENT: BRITISH ARE OBVIOUSLY PREPARED TO ENGAGE
IN LIMITED TRAVEL BY MISSION PERSONNEL IN GDR REGARD-
LESS OF WHETHER FORMAL TRIPARTITE AGREEMENT CAN BE
REACHED. THEY WILL WELCOME, HOWEVER, INDICATIONS
THAT WE ARE PREPARED TO DEVELOP CONSISTENT GUIDE-
LINES FOR OUR PEOPLE, AND THEY WILL BE SEEKING
OPPORTUNITIES TO COORDINATE AS CLOSELY AS POSSIBLE
WITH FRENCH. WE MAINTAINED LISTENING POSTURE THROUGH-
OUT AUGUST 17 MEETING AND TOLD WALKER THAT, WHILE
MISSION VIEWS WERE REFLECTED IN TRAVEL PAPER, WE DID
NOT YET HAVE DEFINITIVE USG POSITION. IF WE ARE ABLE TO
INDICATE TO BRITISH, HOWEVER, THAT WE SEE NO DIFFI-
CULTIES WITH THEM PROCEEDING AS THEY HAVE OUTLINED TO
US AND THAT WE SHARE COMMON INTEREST IN NOT UNDULY
RESTRICTING GDR TRAVEL POSSIBILITIES (SO LONG, OF COURSE,
AS THERE IS NO ADVERSE EFFECT ON BERLIN ACCESS QUESTIONS),
WE GATHER THAT THEY WILL BE INTERESTED IN MAINTAINING
COMMON POSITION TO GREATEST EXTENT POSSIBLE.KLEIN

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